

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 10, 11, 16 and 17. Please amend Claims 9, 14-15 and 18-22.
Please add new Claims 23-30. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1-8. (canceled)

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9. (currently amended) A method for of automating the billing process for a physician physicians using an electronic handheld processing device, the method comprising:
coupling the handheld device to a server and transferring to the handheld device
patient information specific to the physician and billing codes and associated guidelines
specific to the physician;
while the handheld device is decoupled from the server:
displaying a patient list specific to the physician and patient locations, the
patient list being sorted by patient locations and including an indication of
whether each patient has been seen;
displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld
processing device;
displaying billing information for individual patients on the screen of the
handheld processing device;
selecting the required entering patient and billing code information for a
patient once a the patient has been examined; and
downloading guidelines associated with billing codes;
flagging billing code changes to warn the physician physicians to check
new guidelines associated with the billing codes; and
intermittently coupling the handheld device to the server and outputting
patient and billing code data to an interface device the server for distributing the billing
code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.

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10-11. (canceled)

D3 12. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying guideline notifications for different billing codes.

D4 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.

D2 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying billing code and diagnosis menus specific to a the physician.

D5 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising displaying medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to a the physician.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 24, wherein the patient information is sorted by patient locations.

D6 19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 24, further comprising displaying guideline notifications for different billing codes.

D7 20. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 24 wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.

D8 21. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 24, further comprising displaying billing code and diagnosis menus specific to a the physician.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising displaying medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to a the physician.

23. (new) The method of claim 9 further comprising displaying a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.
24. (new) A method of automating the billing process for a physician using an electronic handheld processing device, the method comprising:
- coupling the handheld device to a server and transferring patient information specific to the physician and billing codes and associated guidelines specific to the physician to the handheld device;
 - while the handheld device is decoupled from the server:
 - displaying a patient list specific to the physician, patient locations, and an indication of whether each patient has been seen that day;
 - displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld device;
 - displaying billing information for individual patients on the screen of the handheld processing device;
 - entering patient and billing code information for a patient once the patient has been examined; and
 - displaying guidelines associated with the billing codes; and
 - coupling the handheld device to the server and outputting patient and billing code data to the server for distributing the billing code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.
25. (new) The method of claim 24 further comprising displaying a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.
26. (new) An electronic handheld processing device used by a physician comprising:
- memory storing a patient list specific to the physician, patient locations associated with the patients, an indication of whether each patient has been seen by the physician, and billing code information and associated guidelines specific to the physician;
 - a user interface that enables the physician to sort the patient list according to

location and to access patient demographic information, the indication of whether a patient has been seen, and billing code information and associated guidelines and to enter patient and billing code information; and

a communication interface to intermittently communicate with an interface device for transferring patient, billing and guideline information specific to the physician between the handheld processing device and a server.

27. (new) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display billing code and diagnosis menus specific to the physician.
28. (new) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display medical procedures and evaluation menus specific to the physician.
29. (new) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface enables the physician to display a list of stock phrases specific to the physician for selection by the physician in entering notes.
30. (new) The device of claim 26 wherein the user interface flags billing code changes to warn the physician to check new guidelines associated with the billing codes.
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